(b) the number of Joint Secretaries deployed at Headquarters; and

(c) the number of consultative trips that IFS Officers make abroad normally in year alongwith the details of the visits during the last three years with expenditures thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Madam.

(b) The number of Joint Secretaries deployed at Headquarters is 25.

(c) Docs not arise. (Officers posted at the Ministry of External Affairs are not sent abroad on consultation).

India's views on Military Cooperation between Pakistan and China

531. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has reacted sharply against India's charge of China's military build-up and has termed our objection to military cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad as irresponsible;

(b) if so, Government's reaction on these comments;

(c) whether India has responded to this adverse comment; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) In response to a question raised by the PTI correspondent in Beijing on India's Ministry of Defence annual report 2000-2001, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman said, *inter-alia,* on 4.6.2001 —

- "Attempting to seek an execuse to develop the military is not wise";
- "The Chinese stand on the Indian nuclear issue is known to all";
- "China-Pakistan military cooperation is normal"; and
- For no reason, finding fault is irresponsible.

(b) to (d) Government of India is committed to developing friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of Panchsheel arid mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns.